

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE

Week ending the 2nd February 1901.

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NATIVE PAPERS IN HINDOOSTAN

1800

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 21st January has the following:—

The European press and Shaikh Sanosi of Central Africa.

The European press is moving heaven and hell to incite the European Powers against the followers of Shaikh Sanosi of Central Africa. The Shaikh is a very pious man and has, therefore, a large following. The manner in which he lives does not, however, indicate that he has any intention to establish a kingdom. The attitude, therefore, taken up by the European press against him must have some political motive other than the annihilation of the so-called power of Shaikh Sanosi. In the sermons which the Shaikh addresses to his followers he lays most stress on the view that the prosperity of Islam depends upon the strength of a brotherly feeling among its followers. By the advice of the Sanosi some independent Chiefs of Africa have acknowledged the suzerainty of the Sultan of Turkey, and the Sultan of Morocco has sent a mission to Turkey for the purpose of effecting a treaty with its Sultan. The Sanosi's movements, up to this time, have not been in any way hostile to Christianity or Christian civilisation. It is, therefore, a pure and simple falsehood on the part of the European press to say that he is preaching against Christianity, and is going to declare a *jihad* against the Christians of Europe.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN,
Jan. 21st, 1901.

2. The same paper says that the European Powers are, day by day, becoming more and more jealous of the advance-

The attitude of the European Powers towards Afghans and Abyssinians.

ment which the kingdoms of Abyssinia and Afghanistan are rapidly making. Now those Powers go the length of saying that one day the Afghans of Asia and the Negroes of Abyssinia will raise the standard of revolt against the European Powers.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN.

3. The same paper says that the rising of the natives of Somaliland against British authority is due to the highhandedness of the English officials. The officials treated

The Somaliland rising.

the native population so unkindly that the latter had no alternative but to rebel against the local authorities.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

4. A correspondent of the *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 22nd January says that a theft was committed in the shop of Hari-

A theft in Brahmanberia in the Tippera district.

mohan Saha, in Brahmanberia Bazar, in the Tippera district, and a gold ring belonging to Harimohan, which was also stolen, has been found in the possession of a prostitute who has described how and under what circumstances she came by the ring and who gave it to her. An attempt is still being made to hush up the matter, and the Police is not taking proper steps to detect the thieves. If they are not brought to justice, thieves will become bolder in Brahmanberia.

PRATINIDHI,
Jan. 22nd, 1901.

5. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 23rd January says that the residents of Jejur, in the Serampore Subdivision of the Hooghly district, are much alarmed to know that the

Proposed transfer of a police jamadar.

Government proposes to transfer the police jamadar, who is stationed there to look after the village *badmashes*, and to quarter no police officer for the present in that village. The jamadar has so long discharged his duties with much ability and the many obscene acts and oppressions, which were daily committed by the *badmashes*, were completely put down by him. The Government is requested not to remove the jamadar without proper enquiry into the condition of the village.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Jan. 23rd, 1901.

6. A Pirozpur correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th January says that a brother of one Dhananjay Das, a hotel-owner in Pirozpur, in the Backergunge district, had some time ago refused to compound a case, in which he was the complainant, at the

Alleged oppression by the Pirozpur Police in the Backergunge district.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 25th, 1901.

request of the town haoldar. For this, the haoldar bore Dhananjay a grudge for satisfying which he got an opportunity on the 16th January last. On that date, the haoldar was directing the parade of the town chunkidars. As the file of chunkidars was passing by Dhananjay's shop, some body in the shop asked Dhananjay what was it that the chunkidars were doing. Dhananjay said to the enquirer "হাওলদার বাবু চান কিরাইডেছেন," which in Pirozpur parlance means "the haoldar Babu is holding the parade." The haoldar heard the reply and at once flew to Dhananjay with the words "what, am I a low class man that I should live by grinding 'চান' or rice?" and began beating him and took him to the thana.

As the senior Deputy Magistrate was not at head-quarters, Dhananjay complained to the second officer about the conduct of the police. But that officer refused to receive the complaint, as he had, he said, no power to receive it. In the meantime, the police sent up a long report against Dhananjay, accusing him of having obstructed the police in the discharge of its duties. Eight constables went to Dhananjay's shop, arrested him, and took him to the thana, beating him on the way.

The case of Dhananjay and the case instituted by the police are both pending. Though Dhananjay has many respectable witnesses, it is feared that he will not have the courage to prosecute his case against the police to the end.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 25th, 1901.

7. The same paper says that the public are thankful to the authorities for directing an enquiry into the case in which a respectable native lady was reported in the papers to have been ill-used by a European soldier at the Serampore station. But the officers who have been deputed to make the enquiry, do not appear to be discharging their duty properly. The Serampore correspondent of the *Bengalee* says that two police officers came to him from Howrah to make enquiries into the case; they wanted to see his copy of the letter, which was published in the *Bengalee*, and complained that he had exaggerated the facts. If what the correspondent says be true, the police officers are certainly to blame. They would have done their duty better by enquiring what the soldier did than by wasting time in enquiring who wrote a certain letter in a newspaper, and whether what he wrote was true or exaggerated. The authorities should keep a sharp eye on such officers.

The police enquiry in the Serampore railway station case.

NAVA YUG,
Jan. 26th, 1901.

8. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 26th January says that on the 17th January last, thefts were committed in no fewer than five shops in Old China Bazar, Calcutta. — It is said that a constable was hurt by the thieves and is now in hospital. It is not right that the matter should be hushed up, and the Commissioner of Police is requested to make enquiries into it.

Thefts in Calcutta.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

JYOTI
Jan. 24th, 1901.

9. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 24th January says that the poor residents of the khas mahal in Cox's Bazar, in the Chittagong district, have become sick of the oppressions which are committed upon them by the khas mahal officers. Even the poorest residents have been compelled to contribute towards the famine fund. And now money is extorted from them in connection with the issue of authenticated copies of plans of the survey khatians. The head clerk receives all applications, and realises the necessary fees, but he pays in only a small portion of the fees and misappropriates the balance, dividing it between himself, the copying muharrir, and the *mokabila* muharrir. The khas tahsildar, too, is said not to have a clean hand in the matter. It is, indeed, for a long time that the complaints of misappropriation of the people's money by all khas mahal officers, from the khas mahal Deputy to the very amla and peons have been heard. It is not probable that these oppressions will be stopped by an officer so good-natured as Mr. Lea is. The writer will try to disclose many other secrets, if Government sends some strict officer to enquire into the doings of the khas mahal officers.

Alleged corruption of khas mahal officers in Chittagong.

10. The same paper has heard that Babu Jagat Narayan Sarkar, Munsif, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, has collected some adherents round him and is in the habit of saying from the Bench—

"I have some *ghu ghu* (doves) who have informed me about the origin of this case." This causes much alarm to the parties. It is said that his favourite *ghu ghu* take money from both parties saying that they would influence the Munsif in favour of each.

JYOTI,
Jan. 24th, 1901.

11. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th January says that the greatest inconvenience is caused to the public in consequence of Mr. Gabriel having no fixed time for opening the treasury for the receipt and payment of money and sale of stamps. At times, he comes back suddenly from the mufassal at night and does treasury work. His practice of not receiving money at the treasury after 2 o'clock also causes great inconvenience to the public. The difficulty which people now experience in Beguserai in procuring stamps of all descriptions and even post cards is due solely to Mr. Gabriel's irregularity in doing treasury work.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 25th, 1901.

Mr. Gabriel is in the habit of leaving the subdivision from time to time, and it is not known whether he does so with the permission of the Magistrate and the Commissioner. He frequently visits Bhagalpur, Monghyr, and Calcutta. Of late he has been frequently visiting Calcutta. He came to Calcutta during the Christmas holidays, and did not return to Beguserai before the 2nd January. No court was, therefore, held at Beguserai on the 27th, 28th, 29th and 31st December. He again left Beguserai on the 11th January and came to Calcutta on the 12th. There was, therefore, no court held in Beguserai on the latter date. Such absence on Mr. Gabriel's part causes the greatest inconvenience to the public, as there is not a second Magistrate in Beguserai. Strangely enough, Mr. Gabriel leaves no one in charge when he is himself absent from the subdivision.

Although there is no plague in Beguserai, Mr. Gabriel seems to be seeking every opportunity to exercise the powers vested in Magistrates and Subdivisional Officers for checking the spread of that malady. He has created a panic in the public mind by his actions in the case of the old woman, who, after coming to Beguserai from Monghyr, was attacked with fever and by issuing notices to all persons who receive in their houses guests coming from infected places.

From the annual returns, it is seen that in Mr. Marr's time the number of cases not disposed of at the end of the year was only 9 or 10, while Mr. Gabriel has had 92 or 93 cases not disposed of. Mr. Marr used to receive police reports every other day, or every third day. Mr. Gabriel receives police reports once in a fortnight to the greatest inconvenience of the parties. In Mr. Marr's time, all applications for the appointment of chaukidars, &c., were submitted for disposal every Tuesday. But from the statement of the dismissed *peshkar*, Digambar Sahai, it appears that Mr. Gabriel has done away with this practice, and that chaukidari applications are not submitted to him unless he orders their submission. Mr. Gabriel does not also pass prompt orders on such applications. The consequence is that large numbers of such applications accumulate, and the parties suffer great inconvenience.

On the 12th December last, Mr. Gabriel was on tour and was to have held his court at Bakhri. But when the parties arrived there on that date with their pleaders and witnesses, they heard that he was at Majhoul, nine miles distant from Bakhri. They had, therefore, at once to hurry to Majhoul.

In the case of Shaikh Gudar, a servant of an indigo factory, against Ajodhya Singh and others, Mr. Gabriel, on the private requisition of the manager of the factory, held a local enquiry without giving any notice to the accused or their mukhtars and convicted the accused.

Mr. Gabriel is in the habit of cross-examining accused persons, although such cross-examination is quite unlawful. In the case in which Bhekdhari Singh charged an inspector and a survey amin with asking for bribes, Mr. Gabriel cross-examined both the accused.

Mr. Gabriel fixed Sunday, the 27th January, as the day for holding a meeting of the Beguserai School Committee. Munshi Mosaheb Lal, Secretary of the School, wrote to him a respectful letter pointing out the inconvenience that would be caused to himself and to most other members if the meeting were held on that day. In the same letter Munshi Mosaheb Lal also enquired if Mr. Gabriel, as Chairman of the School Committee, had obtained the sanction necessary for opening an account in the Post Office Savings Bank on behalf of the School, as for want of such sanction an account could not be opened and the subscriptions raised for the repair of the school building could not be deposited in the bank. This made Mr. Gabriel lose his temper, and he wrote the following reply on the letter itself:—

"The fact that the subscriptions for the school building have not yet been deposited in Post Office Savings Bank shows the most disgraceful neglect on the part of the Secretary. It must be done immediately, and should have been put up before me weeks ago.

Please return this letter. The meeting can only be held on the date already fixed.

E. V. GABRIEL."

The 17th January 1901.

Lately one day, Mr. Gabriel kicked Maulvi Abdul Hakim, copyist of the Criminal Court, with his boots on.

Mr. Gabriel is not an officer who should be kept in charge of a subdivision. He ought to be transferred to some district head-quarters.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 5th, 1901.

12. Referring to the cases of Unger and Hemisphere, who were recently tried before the Allahabad High Court on charges of murder, the same paper writes as follows:—

The two murder trials at the Allahabad High Court.

In Unger's case, the story of the prosecution was supported by some native witnesses. But the accused called the Civil Surgeon who had held the *post-mortem* examination as his witness, and that officer said in his evidence that he was uncertain whether death was caused by blows inflicted with a fist or with a slipper. The blow which was considered the severest might, according to him, have been caused either by a boot or by a tent peg; that is to say, death, according to him, might have been caused by the deceased having fallen down upon some hard thing.

It is for the public to judge if it was right to acquit Unger on the strength of this medical evidence. Unger's blows had struck down Teja, the deceased; and no one can say that he had not fallen upon a peg or that a peg had not inflicted the wound when he was dragged away. It is also certain that Teja did not wilfully fall upon a peg so as to kill himself and thereby endanger Unger. But admitting all this as true, could the evidence of natives be believed by an English jury as true when the evidence of a single European went against it? So the jury unanimously declared Unger innocent and Unger was acquitted.

In Hemisphere's case, though Mr. Justice Knox refused to believe the defence set up by the accused that the case had been falsely got up, characterised the evidence of the accused's witness Souttar as false, and explained the inconsistencies in the depositions of the prosecution witnesses, as being due to most of those witnesses being illiterate, low class men, the jury refused to find the accused guilty of murder and brought in a verdict of guilty only on the charge of grievous hurt. The Judge characterised this verdict as extremely lenient and merciful. But he accepted the verdict and sentenced him to six years' rigorous imprisonment. If the Judge had not been as determined to do justice in this case as he was, it is difficult to say what verdict the jury would have brought in. And it is doubtful if the jury would have been so merciful if the accused, instead of being a European, had been a native.

HITAVADI,

13. The same paper says that on the occasion of the recent visit of the Agent, Opium Department, to Mirzapore in the North-Western Provinces, the tahsildar was entrusted with the duty of procuring provisions and all necessaries for him. It happened that the tahsildar could not supply the Agent with something he wanted one night. The Agent complained to

Mr. Wyndham, Magistrate of Mirzapore, North-Western Provinces.

Mr. Wyndham, District Magistrate, against the tahsildar, and Mr. Wyndham at once sent for the tahsildar. As the tahsildar was not in his cutcherry at the time, Mr. Wyndham at once rode to the tahsildar's house and after some talk with him, the purport of which is not known, whipped him, and not content with doing this, transferred the tahsildar to Ghazipur.

The tahsildar brought the matter to the notice of the Commissioner in the hope of getting redress. But the Commissioner merely expressed regret and advised him to forget the matter. Under a standing order of the Government of India, however, the Commissioner had to report the occurrence to the Local Government. That Government asked for an explanation from Mr. Wyndham, and was probably satisfied with his reply that he had beaten the tahsildar because his conduct greatly provoked him. Nothing more has been heard about the matter.

On the day Mr. Wyndham beat the tahsildar, he also beat a peon. Another day he made his nazir remove a stone from the road which had obstructed his bicycle.

14. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 25th January has the following:—

Mr. Yusuf, District Judge of Rangpur.

Why was Mr. Yusuf, District Judge of Rangpur, in such hurry to plant a tree and enjoy its fruit? Why did he pay such frequent visits to Harimohan Babu, when the serious charge against that gentleman was still pending? Mr. Yusuf is an up-country Musalman, he has married an English lady, and he lives like a European. What interest had he in frequently visiting a Bengalee like Harimohan Babu? Did he ever pay such visits to any other Bengalee gentleman of Rangpur? Mr. Yusuf used to acquit an accused person who came to him and fined or sent to prison the complainant and his witnesses.

Under the laws and regulations of the British Government everybody is an educated gentleman, and you, a common ministerial officer, sit on your chair, rocking your legs, and do not think it necessary to ask a Munsif, who stands near you, to take a seat. But when a peon comes from the Rajbati with a bag of ten thousand rupees, you rise from your chair, make him sit down, and is all civility to him.

Rangpur is heartless, Rangpur is unfortunate. Its very *hakims* are doing or have done under *zid* whatever they like or have liked. Rangpur is extorting money from its raiyats, ruining those raiyats by *daladali*, and is paying the money to legal practitioners. Litigious Rangpur should take no offence, but carefully weigh these words.

(d)—Education.

15. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 24th January has the following:—

The Chittagong College and Collegiate School.

The Chittagong College is the model College in the Chittagong Division. But the way in which it has been managed for the last few years has been disappointing to all. The students of the Chittagong College were so long regarded by the professors with affection for their submissive habits. But they are now said to have become unruly in consequence of bad management. A few days ago the students of the second year class were making noise in their class, and a teacher of the Collegiate school, who came to remonstrate with them for their conduct, was very rudely treated by them; and the Principal of the College, instead of rebuking the boys, cut jokes with them and told them that he himself had done many such things in his school-boy days. How edifying the instruction!

The authorities ought to put some check on the wild spirit of Mr. Percival, a teacher of the Collegiate school. Mr. Percival would have done better in the clerical line than he has been doing as a teacher. May uneducated Eurasians hold appointments on large salaries, and it is, therefore, inexplicable why Mr. Percival, who has passed the F. A. Examination, is content with the post of a teacher on a small pay, when all other departments of the public service are open to him. All English subjects have to be explained in Bengali to the boys of the class, which Mr. Percival teaches; but this work cannot be satisfactorily done by him. It is strange why the authorities are so much anxious to retain his services to the detriment of the interests of the boys. The authorities ought

RANGPUR
VARTAVAHA.
Jan. 25th, 1901.

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at least to do something to remove the scandal which Mr. Percival has committed in his selection of candidates from the Collegiate school for the ensuing Entrance Examination.

BANGABANDHU,
Jan. 26th, 1901.

16. The *Bangabandhu* [Chandernagore] of the 26th January says that the work of imparting education by means of object lessons, if entrusted to competent hands, will, without doubt, produce much good. But it is very necessary to teach the vernacular language in the lower classes, as little boys will not otherwise be able to learn anything. The evil effects of teaching a foreign language in the lower classes have already begun to be felt. Most school-boys, nowadays, cannot write or understand Bengali well. The Government has, therefore, done right in agreeing to teach the Bengali language and literature in the lower classes. It should take care to have its resolutions carried out, as, on many occasions, wholesome rules framed by it have not been carried into effect. There seems to be no cause for fear in the present instance, as Sir John Woodburn is at the head of the Government.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 26th 1901.

17. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th January has the following:—
The Lord Bishop on bible-reading in schools. Lord Bishop Welldon has offended everybody. What he has said amounts to this:—"As it was the civilised British Government which effected such reforms as stopping the practice of *sutee*, &c., the same civilised Government must also take steps to foster the people's attachment to Christianity, and, with this object, is bound to introduce bible-reading in all educational institutions; and so forth." It is no wonder that words like these should call forth the loudest protests from all sides. Immediately after his arrival in India Bishop Welldon alarmed and startled the people by urging on the Government the absolute necessity of its taking an intimate interest in missionary work. He, however, grew wiser after that, and retracted what he had said. He will act very wrongly if he does not retract in the same manner what he has now said. The Lord Bishop is doing what the Government does not want him to do. He is startling and frightening all Hindus and Musalmans. The Viceroy should make no delay in warning him.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

CHARU MIHIR,
Jan. 22nd, 1901.

18. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 22nd January says that water scarcity has already begun to be felt in the village Narayandahar in the Mymensingh district. The District Board should re-excavate the old tanks and dig new wells in different places in the village in order to remove this want. The Dhanai river has nearly dried up, and the ferry has therefore been stopped. The residents of the village will be greatly benefited if a bamboo bridge is thrown over the river for four or five months, it being highly inconvenient, especially at night, to ford the stream. A bridge should also be constructed at the point where the Dhanai river falls into the Dhopikhali river. The bamboo bridge over the Lakshmia khal should be replaced by a *pucca* bridge, as it is highly dangerous to cross the khal by a bamboo bridge.

JYOTI,
Jan. 24th, 1901.

19. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 24th January complains of water scarcity in Bakshir Hât and Patharghata in the Chittagong district. As the residents of these places have to drink foul water, there is no doubt that epidemics will soon break out among them. Two ponds in Patharghata and three in Bakshir Hât ought to be dug at the expense of the Khasmahal Fund.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 25th, 1901.

20. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th January says that, disgusted at the conduct of Mr. Jolly, District Engineer of Monghyr, Babu Durga Nath Sarkar, Accountant of the District Board, has sent in his resignation. Mr. Jolly is also committing much oppression on Babu Kali Prasanna Sen, Overseer of Beguserai, in order to compel him to resign. On the 31st August last, Mr. Jolly went to inspect the works in Teghra. On arrival there, he sent for the Sub-Overseer, Babu Ashutosh Bhattacharyya. But as that officer could

not arrive immediately, in consequence of his being busy elsewhere, Mr. Jolly lost his temper and on Ashu Babu's arrival snatched from his hand his note-book and drove him out of the bungalow.

Mr. Jolly's incompetence as an Engineer is proved by the estimates he prepared of the Shaikhpur, Beguserai, and Teghra dispensary buildings; for the Surajpur bridge and the bridge at the fourth mile on the Baro-Bhagwanpur road. In the repair of the Baro-Bhagwanpur bridge, Mr. Jolly bungled so badly in spite of the advice given him by the Sub-Overseer, Babu Ashutosh Bhattacharyya, that the whole bridge gave way and had to be reconstructed. One of the pillars of the Surajpur bridge had got more than one foot out of plumb, in consequence of the flood, and the bridge was damaged. Mr. Jolly had the bridge re-built on the old pillars. But who will be responsible if the bridge gives way at the next flood?

Mr. Jolly's partiality for Ram Sahai Mistri was referred to in a previous issue (Report on Native Papers for 26th January, paragraph 41), and here is a list of the works, contracts for which have been given to Ram Sahai's servant, Bechu Mistri—

- (1) pruning the trees in the Monghyr cutcherry compound;
- (2) annual repair of the Monghyr Government School building;
- (3) annual repair of Monghyr circuit house;
- (4) fitting of doors in the Jamalpur post office building;
- (5) fencing of the Monghyr Baptist Church compound;
- (6) repair of punkhas;
- (7) repairing the Patna road;
- (8) making flags for survey work; and
- (9) repair of the opium cutcherry and godown in Monghyr.

The contract for repairing the opium buildings, at least, ought to have been given to Lulhai Mistri, as he had a claim to it and had tendered to do the work at 95 per cent. of the estimated cost.

Though Article 91 of the Civil Service Regulations and the Bengal Government Circular B. 9 No. 34069, dated the 25th September 1890, prohibit the taking of private work by District Engineers, Mr. Jolly took a survey commission in August last from the Court of the Subordinate Judge of Monghyr for a remuneration of Rs. 1,000, and went to Jamui on one week's leave to do the work. He, moreover, got the work done by the District Board's Overseers and Sub-Overseers, and had even the plans made by them.

Though four months have elapsed since the Government disapproved of the Board's payment from its own funds of Mr. Jolly's contribution to the pension fund at the time of his appointment, Mr. Jolly has not yet refunded the money to the Board.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

21. The *Pratinidhi* [Commilla] of the 22nd January says that the revaluation work of Chakla Roshanabad, in the Tippera district, has been taken in hand, and a Deputy Collector has been specially appointed for the purpose. Every one knows to what straits the talukdars have been brought by the late settlement. Many of them will not be able to save their taluks, and if a heavy burden of road cess is put upon them they will be totally ruined. It has been learnt from a trustworthy source that the road cess is being fixed according to the probable yield of all cultivable lands, without regard to the fact that the probable yield of a land is a perfectly uncertain quantity which has no existence in the present. The talukdars will be ruined if road cess is fixed on their probable incomes. The road cess is a permanent tax and once fixed, there is no hope of its being reduced.

PRATINIDHI,
Jan. 22nd, 1901.

(g)—Railways and communications including canals and irrigation.

22. A correspondent of the *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 22nd January says that great oppressions are being committed by the clerk at the steamer ghât at Brahmanberia, in the Tippera district. The clerk charges a fee of one pice per maund on all goods left at the steamer ghât. This is causing great

PRATINIDHI,
Jan. 22nd, 1901.

hardship to traders. The clerk has also issued a notice to the effect that any one going, without his permission, upon the boat which is placed at the ghât to serve as a landing-stage for passengers and goods, will be punished. The object of the notice is probably to prevent traders from removing their goods directly from the steamer to their boats without paying the extra fee of one pice per maund. It is asked whether the extra fee is realised with the sanction of the authorities.

BANKURA
DARPAN,
Jan. 23rd, 1901.

23. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd January is sorry to know that all the contracts for earthwork on the Jheria extension of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway have been given to upcountry men, who have brought with them a large number of upcountry coolies, while the people of Bankura are migrating for want of work. There is already scarcity of food in the district, and prices will undoubtedly rise higher if a large number of coolies from other provinces are brought into the district. The authorities ought to see that the poor people of Bankura can get enough work to maintain themselves in this year of high prices. It is also feared that the number of thefts and dacoities in the district will largely increase if a large number of upcountry coolies are brought here.

KHULNA,
Jan. 24th, 1901.

24. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 24th January complains that the passenger trains on the Bengal Central Railway run very slowly and make unnecessary halts at very many stations. People having business in the law courts at Jessore will be very much benefited if the passenger train which leaves Khulna for Calcutta in the morning reaches the Jessore station before 11 A.M., instead of at 11-45 A.M., as at present.

JYOTI,
Jan. 24th, 1901

25. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 24th January complains that the feeder road through the village Terail, in Sitakundu, in the Chittagong district, is in a deplorable condition for want of repairs. As the passenger traffic on this road is very large, the District Board should repair it as soon as possible.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 25th, 1901.

26. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th January has received the following from a Jamalpur correspondent:—
At ten or twelve minutes after noon on the 8th January last, a gunner, named Gomez, of the Locomotive Store Department, kicked a cooly, named Churaman, so violently that the man became insensible, and is now lying in a precarious condition in the railway hospital. For fear of being punished, Gomez at once reported the matter to the Store-keeper, Mr. J. H. Goodfellow, and the matter has been hushed up. No complaint has been made, as the cooly has no relatives at Jamalpur.

The editor is not willing to believe the story, but as the alleged occurrence is a very serious one, he gives publicity to it in the hope that the authorities will make enquiries. A contradiction will be gladly published.

HITAVADI.

27. The same paper says that though tickets are now sold to passengers at the Baliaghata railway station half an hour before train time, passengers have to wait at the gate, ticket in hand, for twenty minutes, because the officer whose duty it is to punch the tickets does not arrive at the gate till only ten minutes before train time. This causes passengers the same inconvenience at the gate which they formerly suffered at the ticket stall. The crowd which assembles at the gate inflicts the greatest suffering, particularly on female passengers.

(h)—General.

JYOTI,
Jan. 24th, 1901.

28. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 24th January has been much alarmed to see the arrangements which have been made for the reception of Mecca pilgrims at the Chittagong pilgrim camp. The object of confining the pilgrims in the camp is to prevent the spread of plague, but all pilgrims are not received in the camp. Only so many as can be taken on board one steamer are taken into the camp at a time, and all the rest have to wait outside, exposed to the cold of this severe

winter. As these men are allowed to go everywhere in the town there is danger of epidemic diseases being spread by them. The pilgrims themselves suffer much for want of due supervision on the part of the authorities. Many pilgrims are sent away after being admitted into the camp. New pilgrims are not allowed to enter the camp, and it is said that bribes are taken from the pilgrims for permission to enter into the camp. Arrangements ought to be made to receive all pilgrims into the camp, and when the camp is full to send telegrams to Laksham, Chandpur, Goulundo, and other stations prohibiting the despatch of more pilgrims to Chittagong. If this is done, pilgrims will be saved unnecessary trouble, and all danger to the health of Chittagong town will be averted.

29. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 24th January says that there was absolutely no necessity for extending the range of the Chingrikhali fort in the Diamand Harbour subdivision, considering that, never during artillery practice, did a shot fall within the two miles of country over which the range has been extended since last year. The extension of the range is causing much hardship to the people of the Daro pargana, in the Midnapore district, particularly in a year of distress like the present. Government should reduce the range to its old limits.

BASUMATI,
Jan. 24th, 1901.

30. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th January is glad to learn that Babu Chandra Narayan Singha, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore, will be appointed Collector of Calcutta, on the retirement of Rai Durga Gati Bannerji Bahadur. Chandra Narayan Babu has served the Government with great ability, both as a Deputy Magistrate and as a Personal Assistant to Divisional Commissioners. In fact, he earned the praise of the Government in whatever capacity he was employed. He is also known to Government as a noble-minded zamindar, who is solicitous of the welfare of his tenants. Babu Chandra Narayan gave proof of his devoted loyalty on the occasion of Her late Majesty's Jubilee. In fact, Babu Chandra Narayan will be the right man in the right place.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 26th, 1901.

III.—LEGISLATION.

31. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th January says that as coolies of no other caste except Bauris and Sonthals work in the coal mines of Raniganj and Govindapur, and as all Bauris and Sonthals do not agree to serve as coal mine coolies, the demand for coolies to work in the mines has outgrown the supply, as the mining industry has expanded in the course of time. To remove this want, Government appointed a Commission of enquiry in 1896, under the presidency of Mr. Williams. But nothing came of that Commission. It is, therefore, all the more strange that the Government has now in its hand a Bill for curtailing the already short supply of coolies by prohibiting the employment of miners in underground mining work.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 25th, 1901.

Unlike tea-garden coolies, the coolies who work in mines are not bound by any agreement. Moreover, all miner coolies, who work in mines, get some land for cultivation from their employers, and all coolies, adults or minors, work quite contentedly in mines as they have all their necessities supplied. The shortness in the supply of coolies has, nowadays, given them much advantage over their employers, which they frequently use to the great detriment and inconvenience of the latter.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

32. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 22nd January has the following:—
The illness of the Queen. The news of the illness of the Queen-Empress Victoria has filled us with anxiety. And the news that all her relations and kinsmen, and even the Emperor of Germany, have hastened to Osborne Palace, eager to see her, has very much alarmed us, because the Queen is now more than eighty-one, and severe illness at this time of life generally ends fatally. Though God never grants eternal life to anybody, still we pray to him with all our heart to spare Her Majesty a few years more. The Empress Victoria

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
Jan. 22nd, 1901.

is the guardian angel of England and the well-wisher of India; she is always anxious for India's good, and always sympathises with her people. And that is why we are all praying for her long life. Her present nervous debility is probably due to her anxieties on account of the Boer War and the repeated famines and other disasters in India. England may have many enemies, but we make bold to say that Her Majesty has none. It will be no exaggeration to say that the Empress is the mistress of all Europe. In her is centred all the hope of the Indians, and her Proclamation is the only source from which the Indians derive their courage. Although according to the English constitution, the Empress possesses no independent powers, we are in the habit of thinking that all the happiness which we are enjoying under British rule is due to the piety of the Queen-Empress. We do not know what fate awaits us.

PRATINIDHI,
Jan. 22nd, 1901.

33. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 22nd January contains the following obituary notice of the Queen:—

The Queen.

The whole world is in mourning for the death of the goddess-like Queen Victoria. We Indians are stricken at heart and plunged in the depths of grief by the departure of our mother who was a true goddess. India bewails the loss of a kind mother. Such a model queen, mother, and woman is rare in this world. The virtuous Queen never set her foot in India, and yet by her sincere and constant love she bound Indians to herself by indissoluble ties. The kind-hearted Queen could never forget India for a single day: in all the dangers and disasters of this country she sent her love and blessings to her Indian children. Although she lived thousands of miles away, her love brought her very near to us. At the news that she is now gone for ever from this world old and young feel as if they have lost their mother and are bewailing her loss. Our mother has established her throne so firmly in our hearts that Indians are paying her today a funeral offering of tears. The history of the nineteenth century is embellished by the record of the holy incidents of her holy life. The long reign of a long life is now over. Who but our virtuous Queen has ever reigned so long? Victory was her constant attendant, England reached the pinnacle of her glory during her reign. She lost her husband on the 14th December 1861. During these forty years she has led a life of austere purity. The Empress of India was holiness personified, and our heart's prayer is that God may take her on His holy lap.

BANKURA
DARPAN,
Jan. 23rd, 1901.

34. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd January has the following:—

The Queen's death.

The news of the Queen's death will be received with sorrow not only by the Indians but by the people of the whole world. A fortunate Queen like Her late Majesty was never before born. After a rule of sixty-four years, she has ascended heaven in her eighty-second year, leaving the whole world to mourn her loss. She was the sovereign of the first empire in the world, and as England is connected with every country, enquiries regarding her health were made everywhere. The Indians have always cherished her as their mother, and her death has made them motherless. We have not space to write more, nor does the disturbed state of our mind allow of our doing so. We pray to God to give peace to her family in their present bereavement.

KHULNA,
Jan. 24th, 1901.

35. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 24th January contains a poem lamenting the death of the Queen.

The Queen.

JYOTI,
Jan. 24th, 1901.

36. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 24th January has the following:—

The death of the Queen.

What is this that has happened! What is this we hear! We do not know at what inauspicious moment the twentieth century took its birth. Bad omens are seen on all sides. In whichever direction, at home or abroad, we turn our eyes, whether towards domestic or social affairs or towards affairs of State, we see the shadow of Evil on some one or other among them. The whole country was agitated by the Boer War, the Chinese War, and the Indian famine. Over and above all this, on the afternoon of Tuesday last, at 7-6 P.M., the Empress Victoria, the centre of all worldly happiness and prosperity, the very image of the goddess Lakshmi (goddess of fortune), the very incarnation of all

worldly good, disappeared from this world. In her death, the world seems to have lost a jewel, which will never again be restored.

37. The *Rangpur Dikprakash* [Rangpur] of the 24th January has the following :—

Mourning at Kakina and Rangpur for the Queen's death.

Immediately on receipt of the sad news of the Queen's death the Raja Bahadur of Kakina communicated it to his dependents, and on the following day caused pieces of blue cloth to be hung from his residence as well as his school and office as a sign of mourning. The local school has been closed for seven days and the Raja's office, for three days, on account of this melancholy event. The Raja's officers have been ordered to wear mourning. Every member of the Raja's family is sad at the death of the Empress, and no sign of cheerfulness is to be observed in the family. Every year the Raja's birthday is celebrated with great festivities on the 22nd Magh. This will not probably be done this year. We understand that the day of the Queen's funeral will be marked by the Raja with some special memorial. Charitable donations may also be made on that day. The publication of our *Dikprakash* will be stopped for a week on account of the death of our mother. Pained by this sad news Raja Mahimaranjan offered prayers in the Brahmo Somaj on the 11th Magh [24th January] last for the welfare of the Queen's soul. We learn from a trustworthy source that Babu Bisweswar Sen, the famous pleader of Rangpur, and his friends prayed together in his house for the welfare of the Queen's soul.

38. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 24th January contains the following obituary notice of the Queen :—

The Queen.

Queen Victoria died at midnight on Tuesday last. This news reached Calcutta at 5 A.M. on Wednesday. Alas! At what an evil hour did the dire Boer War begin! What a calamity it has led to! The Queen was born on the 24th May 1819. She had, therefore, completed her eighty-first year. In this old age she has had to pass days and nights in harassing anxieties caused by that war. When the English troops were being beaten in battle after battle and were defeated at Colenso, Spionkop, Stormberg and Megasfontein, the sad news sorely troubled the Queen's heart. Many a night did she pass without sleep, many a day she tasted no food. Harassing anxieties told on her nerve. When better days came, what fatigues had she to undergo to gratify her people. When the English people were beside themselves with joy at the relief of Ladysmith, the Queen, in order to join in the festivities, left Windsor Palace for London, and on the 8th March, went round the great city. On 22nd March she went to hospital to see the wounded soldiers returned from Africa and passed several hours there. To please the people of Ireland she went on the 4th April to Dublin. She passed about three weeks there in various festivities and then returned to London. On the 27th April she received an ovation at Chester. On the 2nd May the naval heroes, returned from Africa, were invited to Windsor. The Queen entertained herself in their company. On the 16th May she went to the Netley Hospital to see the soldiers wounded in the Boer War. On the 19th September she saw the Indian soldiers returned from the Ashanti War. On the 16th November she welcomed the Colonial troops, and on the 30th honoured the Canadian soldiers. She was too old to be able to bear all this fatigue. The Boer War has proved the death of the Queen.

On the 4th April her eldest son had a narrow escape from an assassin's hand. How that news must have alarmed her!

On the 30th July last year her second son, Duke Alfred, died. What a grief the old mother must have felt!

On the 29th October last, her grandson, Prince Christian Victor, died in the Transvaal. She was overwhelmed with grief. These repeated bereavements were too much for her.

On Friday last, the news suddenly came that the Queen was sinking fast and that she could neither eat nor sleep. The next day the report arrived that she was in a critical condition. On Sunday the news came that her life was despaired of, and that the end might be expected at any moment. Monday's report was to the effect that she was suffering from heavy prostration and was unable to speak. On Tuesday came a better report; the Queen, it was said, has been able to sleep and take some sustenance. Early in the morning

RANGPUR
DIKPRAKASH,
Jan. 24th, 1901.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 24th 1901.

on Wednesday came the news that the Queen was no more. The whole British Empire is stricken with grief.

SAMAY,
Jan. 25th, 1901.

39. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 25th January has the following :—

The Queen's death.

We did not know that we should lose our Queen mother Victoria and become orphans so soon. Reuter's heartrending news of her death has deeply pained us. This most mournful news has opened up a perpetual well of grief in the vast British Empire, especially in England and India. The kings and the peoples of other countries of the world, too, are in deep sorrow for the death of this virtuous, affectionate Queen. No one is talking of anything but this death of the Queen. Business is nearly at a standstill, and as every one is lamenting the loss, there is no one to give consolation in this universal grief. The throne which was adorned by Empress Victoria is now vacant.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 25th, 1901.

40. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th January has the following :—

How the news of Her late Majesty's illness was received in India.

When Reuter telegraphed—"Victoria, Empress of India, is confined to her bed; her life is despaired of and the worst is expected every moment," the whole Indian Empire, from the Himalaya to Cape Comorin and from the Indus to the forests of Burma, was drowned in a torrent of indescribable grief. No loyal subject could help feeling the deepest sorrow at the thought that Her Majesty, Empress Victoria, in whose dominion we have lived with a sense of perfect security, whose manner of ruling her subjects has charmed us, whose merciful Proclamation has created and deepened extraordinary *bhakti* in our hearts, and by uttering whose name we console ourselves when we are in want, or when we are oppressed—was about to leave this world.

Everybody knows the English saying that the sun never sets on Victoria's dominions, and the news of Victoria's illness seemed to darken the face of the sun. Not India alone, but the whole British Empire appeared to be darkened with sorrow. Everybody became eager, everybody became anxious, nay, impatient to learn the latest telegraphic message about Her Majesty's condition.

Whether in domestic life or as a Sovereign, Her Majesty everywhere gave proof of nobleness of mind. Never was such a combination of intelligence with womanly liberality, affection, and tenderness observed in anybody else. No wonder that the people of her own country and the people of other countries, too, were charmed with her virtues. It is not strange that all her subjects, without distinction of caste and creed, are offering up sincere prayers to their gods for her recovery.

HITAVADI.

41. The same paper says that formerly only such native gentlemen as

Race distinction in the Madras Levee.

came to the Madras Government House with native shoes on had to leave their shoes outside. But Lord Ampthill made all native gentlemen, whether with native or English shoes on, come to his levee bare-footed. This has created a great sensation in Madras. Such race distinction at the very commencement of his rule does not augur well for Lord Ampthill.

RANGPUR
VARTAVAHA,
Jan. 25th, 1901.

42. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 25th January writes as follows :—

The Queen.

Mother, have you really left this mortal world? Mother, is it true that you are no longer on this earth? Mother, are you really gone to heaven? Mother, we can by no means bring ourselves to believe that your play on this stage of life is played out. Mother, have you forgotten all love for us? Did you not once think of your poor children? Even now we feel as if you are alive, as if your image is present before our eyes, though you are yourself away in some distant land. But yet we cannot console ourselves. Our breasts are wetted by the tears that trickle down our cheeks. Affectionate mother, who was the mistress of untold wealth, if it were only possible for us to show the deep stream of grief that is flowing within our hearts, we could make you understand how on account of grief for your loss the infant is staring in deep amazement, the child has left off playing and is shedding silent tears, and young men and women have left off amusing themselves and are discussing with sad faces the circumstances of your last hours. On the streets as well as at *ghāts*, in markets as well as within houses, men and

women are blaming Providence for snatching away their mother so soon. But as lamentation is of no avail, let us all pray to God that the soul of our goddess-like mother may rest in place in heaven, and let us exhort her sorrowing family to submit with resignation to this cruel blow inflicted by Providence.

Alas! What an unlucky day is the 22nd of January 1901! By robbing only one life, it has thrown the whole world into tears. To-day, on the 25th, everybody at Rangpur seems drowned in the depths of despair. We do not know whether we are fitter to console the Queen's sorrowing family, or they are to console us.

Mother, who will again love and care for us as you did? Under you, wealth was not unduly honoured and no distinction was made of colour. Mother, for these virtues of yours your memory will always remain fresh in our hearts.

We hope that our kind-hearted Viceroy will procure photographs of the Queen on her death-bed and direct them to be kept in every home in India. Every morning we will look upon those pictures when we recite the name of God, and look upon a morning so spent as the beginning of an auspicious day.

We are stricken with such grief at the loss of our mother that a torpor has come over us, and we are unable to write more. Every Hindu is to-day engaged in celebrating the worship of the goddess Saraswati. But we feel no joy in that celebration. We will keep our office and press closed for some days. As everybody ought to read our mother's life, we will publish an account of her life on a suitable opportunity.

43. The *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 25th January writes as follows:—

The Queen.

After a glorious and uninterrupted reign of four-and-sixty years, Victoria, the favoured of Heaven and the Empress of India—she who was the cause of the universal progress and prosperity of the British nation and the ruler of an Empire over which the sun never sets—is fallen asleep for ever amid the lamentations of an entire world. Her reign is unique in English history. The reign of no other Sovereign who has ever sat on the throne of England has been so long or marked by such progress in so many ways. But death is stronger than all. Everybody must yield to him sooner or later. So the Queen, born in 1819, and the mistress of a wide empire and blessed with children and grandchildren and unmeasured worldly happiness and prosperity, is fallen asleep for ever after having completed her eightieth year.

Englishmen all over the world are now stricken with grief. But the sorrow felt by the Indians is peculiarly deep. It was after a long time that they had got a queen like her. The English people refused to call her Empress. We have called her by that name. If she was not an Empress during whose reign such a worldwide Empire was built up, and Australia, though republican in government, was willing and anxious to remain a part of the Empire, and did not, like America, forget the mother country, we do not see who else could be entitled to that name.

The English people have attained to unprecedented prosperity during her reign, and, as we believe, owing to her favoured auspices. The Indians never knew such peace and happiness as they have enjoyed during her reign. There have never been such mutual sympathy and brotherly feeling among Indians as during that period. Indians of all creeds never before enjoyed such facilities for visiting their respective places of pilgrimage and studying their respective sacred books, Hindus, Musalmans, Christians, Buddhists—all enjoyed security under her rule. All these are achievements of the English Government, but few are aware how much of the kind heart of the Queen was in the doing of these achievements.

When the English public became almost frantic at the atrocities practised during the Sepoy Mutiny, it was the noble and kind Proclamation of the Queen that sprinkled water over the great fire. The pledge about the employment in the public service of all persons on the sole consideration of fitness and without any distinction of creed and colour was inserted in the Proclamation by the Queen with her own hand and the promise of amnesty, too, was inserted at her insistence.

EDUCATION
GAZETTE,
Jan. 25th, 1901.

The Queen had been honouring her Hindustani officers with letters written in Hindustani. As Indians get an English temper by writing English, as one is likely to become a little Aryan in temper and feeling by writing Sanskrit, so the Queen's affection for Hindustan was increased by her learning Hindustani. Could so much money have been raised in England for the relief of the famine in India without her sympathy?

She used every now and then to use the words "My Indian subjects." Now that she is dead, Indians feel, in a very particular manner, the sweetness, the motherly feeling conveyed in that word "My."

The Queen's ideas and sentiments had much the same elevated character as the ideas and sentiments of Aryya women. She did not like widow marriage in respectable families. Nor could she bear to see a woman marrying in her old age. Her great friend, the Baroness Burdett Coutts, was refused admission into her palace for having married in her old age. She forbade her widowed daughter-in-law to marry again.

On account of her deep respect for her husband she got all acts for the public good done by him, keeping herself in the background as one incapable of transacting the business of the State. After her husband's death, she did not take part, for a long time, in any public proceedings. But whenever it became necessary to do anything, the Queen privately did the right thing. Her proceedings during the last thirty years of her life show that it was not from incapacity that the Queen did not take any conspicuous part in the public business during the early part of her reign.

It was solely owing to his admiration for the Queen's character that the German Emperor did not create any difficulties during the Boer War. What the Emperor's real feelings otherwise were, are clearly indicated by his telegraphic congratulation to Kruger after the Jamieson raid.

The Queen sent telegraphic messages of consolation wherever any disaster occurred. Those messages were not drafted by clerks. Consolation was offered in the Queen's own sincere words of sincere sympathy. Not even a great writer could have written so feelingly and in so few words as she did.

It was owing to the Queen's pure character that her Court was the purest of Courts. Even an able man like Sir Charles Dilke could never become a Minister on account of his bad character.

Whether we consider the bringing up of children or the proper performance of all household duties, the Queen could not be accused of any remissness in any particular. Mistress of so wide an empire, she cooked at least one thing or another with her own hands for her husband. She personally supervised all household arrangements. Thrift and economy were among her many virtues.

All virtues are but developments of one. The Queen's heart was good, and everything she did was, therefore, becoming and proper, and she was not found wanting in any particular.

The number of those who have never suffered the pangs of bereavement are very few, indeed, in this world. The all-prosperous Queen Victoria, too, had to bear heart-rending grief for the death of children and kindred. May God now grant consolation to her children, grand-children and family!

Let us—Hindus, Musulmans, Buddhists and Christians—pray to God for the welfare of the Queen's soul. By the blessing of God the Queen's good fortune will attend her successor. It may be hoped that the son of her who gave birth to jewels of children will, in virtue of his mother's righteousness and his mother's blessings, and in imitation of her noble policy, try to govern well this wide empire, and to rule all subjects of all nationalities in all countries impartially and without making any distinction of creed and colour keeping British glory all the while unimpaired.

44. The *Pratihar* [Berhampore] of the 25th January writes as follows:—

The Queen.

Our Empress Victoria is no more. We are under the painful necessity of announcing to-day the sad news, the very contemplation of which, not to speak of its announcement, causes a shudder. We never dreamt that we should have to suddenly appear in mourning for her death. A kind-hearted, accomplished, and intelligent Sovereign like her is rare on earth. Such a combination of good qualities is found in no other person. The friends and kindred of a deceased person

recount every item in the catalogue of his virtues when mourning for him. But this is impossible in the present case. Who shall exhaust the list of virtues of the Sovereign who was a very ocean of virtues? When one feels that such a person is dead, one loses everything except an overwhelming sense of grief, hardly performs the function of breathing, and feels his head swimming. We are in a similar condition at the loss of our kind hearted Empress. Her holy life is full of glorious deeds, and her departure, therefore, has overwhelmed us with grief.

45. *Al Punch* [Bankipore] of the 25th January has the following:—

The Queen-Empress's death. It is a matter of regret that the cruel and merciless hand of death makes no distinction between king and subject, rich and poor, good and bad, but strikes down any one and every one. We are sorry, extremely sorry, to say that hand had the audacity to strike down our Queen-Empress and snatch her away from among us. Alas, who knew that Her Gracious Majesty would die at the very commencement of the new century. But she has left us for a happy and eternal world, and we shall have another Sovereign to look after us. The late Empress was the wisest Sovereign the world has ever produced. Her peaceful and happy reign will not be forgotten so long as the world lasts.

AL PUNCH,
Jan. 25th, 1901.

46. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 26th January has the following:—

The Queen Empress's death. The sudden death of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress Victoria has cast a gloom all over the British Empire. During her reign England made much progress in wealth and civilisation. The English nation began to consider India as the fountain-head of their prosperity during the reign of the late Queen-Empress. It was after the accession of Her late Majesty that the Indians really ceased to think the English to be their enemies. The devoted loyalty which the Indians are now showing to the British nation is due to the affection shown them by Her late Majesty during her long and prosperous reign. It was during her reign that the whole of India came under British rule, and English trade and commerce underwent rapid developments in India. In fact, the English nation greatly prospered during the reign of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria who was unequalled by any other Sovereign for excellence of character, piety, and affection. The affection shown by Her late Majesty to her children, family and kith and kin will never find a parallel in her sex. The qualities which endear a Sovereign to his or her subjects were found in every stage of her life. Why should we not lament the death of so affectionate a Sovereign?

BHARAT MITRA,
Jan. 26th, 1901.

47. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th January has the following:—

The Queen. What a terrible, tragic news this! Victoria, the Empress of India, is no more! We never saw so fortunate a queen. Nor have we seen any other queen reign so long. We are not aware whether any other queen possessed at any time so wide an empire. Our Victoria was truly the mistress of the world with all its seas. England is now foremost both in force of arms and of intellect. It is during Victoria's reign that the English people have become the foremost, the greatest, and an all-prosperous people on earth. It is during her reign that the extent of the British Empire has nearly doubled itself. No one has ever seen or heard of, so unique a reign. Victoria, the unique queen of this unique empire, has passed away in extreme old age. Let all then once say "Hari, Hari." Let all say "Hari, Hari," once again, with all their hearts for the welfare of the soul of Victoria, the mistress of the world. All is over now. That terrible day has robbed the mistress of the world of her breath and is fled. It is all over with her who owned all. Brothers, let us yet once more say "Hari, Hari."

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 26th, 1901.

The writer next gives an account of the Queen's life.

48. The same paper writes as follows:—

Divine worship in India for the Queen's recovery. Hearing that the affectionate and kind-hearted Empress of India, who was the idol of the hearts of her devoted Indian children, was dying, the Hindus, Musalmans, Jains, Sikhs, Parsis, and Christians of India devoted themselves to prayer with troubled hearts. All offered prayers in their respective places of worship, in earnest, supplicating tones, for the recovery of the kind-hearted Empress. Raja Peary Mohun Mukherjee, President of the British

BANGAVASI.

India Association ; Maharaja Kumar Pradyot Kumar Tagore ; Raja Ranjit Singh Bahadur of Nasipur, the model zamindar ; Babu Ramanath Ghosh, combined to make proper arrangements for the worship of the gods. At Kalighat, the god was bathed and worshipped in the temple of Nakuleswar. An elaborate worship was performed in the temple of the goddess Kali. *Harir-loot* was offered in the temple of Madhusudan. Virgins, Brahmins and *sannyasis* were duly entertained, and alms were given to beggars. The name of Durga was recited a hundred thousand times. Every quarter rang with the cry of "Hari," "Durga" and "Kali" uttered by devout hearts. The Hari Worship Association of Pathuripati set torrents of *bhakti* flowing in devout hearts by shouting the name and chanting the praise of Hari. Nor was the Marwari Sabha of Calcutta behind-hand in any respect. The Musalmans of the town, too, fervently offered prayers, in their mosques with tearful eyes for the recovery of the Queen. Thousands of Musalmans assembled and offered prayers in the mosques at Taltala, Dhurm-tala, and Medibag. Respectable Musalmans occupying high offices were their leaders in these devotions.

Proper arrangements for the performance of religious rites for the propitiation of the gods were made not in Calcutta alone, but all over Bengal and India. The Musalmans of Nawada in the Gaya district assembled in mosque at 10 A.M. on Tuesday last to offer prayers. A request to this effect had been made by Mahammad Buktiar Shah of Calcutta. At Chapra, too, the Musalmans assembled and offered prayers in their mosque for the recovery of the Queen.

Attended by a numerous retinue, the eldest son of the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad offered prayers in mosque for the recovery of the Queen. Proper arrangements were also made for divine worship and the performance of propitiatory rites at Nashipur, Murshidabad. All the Hindu inhabitants of Pabna town arranged for the performance of propitiatory rites in the temple of Kali. Similar rites were performed in the local temple of Kali by the Hindu residents of Nator. The praise of Hari was also chanted. The Musalmans of that place offered prayers in their mosque. The Musalmans of Patna, too, prayed in their mosque under the leadership of Maulvi Syed Amiruddin Ahmed. Prayers were offered in every temple and every mosque in Bombay town for the recovery of the Queen. All sorts of amusements were stopped.

At Lahore prayers were offered both in Hindu temples and Muhammadan mosques. Arrangements were also made for the performance of propitiatory rites. The Musalmans of Madras prayed in their mosques.

NAVA YUG,
Jan. 26th, 1901.

49. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 26th January writes as follows:—

The Queen.

We never dreamt that we should have suddenly to present the public with such sad news. Even when publishing our last issue, we did not think that we should have to appear before our readers with such sad tidings, that we should have to announce to-day the cruel news that the Empress is no more. She on whose empire the sun never sets, during whose reign the world has been illumined by the light of civilisation, and owing to whose administrative ability, the lion is found side by side with the lamb—that Queen Victoria—is dead amid the lamentations of an entire world. All over the British empire, young and old, have become motherless in consequence of the departure of the goddess *Jagaddhatri* (protectress of the world) in human form. Not India alone, but the whole civilised world is stricken with grief at this sad news. We have not known for nearly a century the grief that subjects experience on the death of their Sovereign. The kind-hearted Queen Victoria upon whom we looked as a mother has now made us experience that grief.

The Prince of Wales is now our Sovereign. We heartily pray God to bless him with health and to grant him good sense to tread in the footsteps of his mother.

DACCA
GAZETTE,
Jan. 28th, 1901.

50. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 28th January contains the following and also a short sketch of Her late Majesty's life in its English columns:—

The Queen.

"The greatest, best and purest, if not the happiest, Sovereign (Empress Victoria) has passed away. For some days past, the whole of the English-speaking world, including India, has been troubled with the news of the serious illness of our Empress-Mother, and the eyes of the whole world were turned towards England in anxious expectancy. Her Imperial Majesty ceased to

breathe at 6-30 p.m. (London time) on Tuesday last and a thrill of grief and horror flashed from one extremity of her vast empire to the other, enveloping the British Empire in dense gloom and the whole of the civilised world in sadness. Even the uncivilised parts of the earth must mourn in sympathy with the rest, so universal is the sorrow for the sudden translation to the heavenly abode of our good and great Empress. The streets of Dacca, which are separated by thousands of miles from those of London, were deserted on the evening of Wednesday when the sad news was received here, the whole of the morning and afternoon having been spent in anxious enquiries about the truth of the royal death, the shops and other places of business being closed at the instance of the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca. The royal demise fell on the day of the *Ed* festival, a day of great sanctity to the Moslems, and well has the Nawab Bahadur—a Muhammadan of the first and foremost rank in Bengal—done honour to the sainted memory of his beloved Sovereign; and the masses as well as the classes followed his injunction to cease work and festivity for the day, with an alacrity which is really astonishing.

"The loss has been overwhelming, the loss to the Empire on which the sun never sets, and to the world in general; the full significance of this loss cannot be realised now, though the day is not distant when the holy influence of our Empress-Mother will be sadly missed in the social economy of Europe, and her effective insistence on justice, peace, and good-will will be missed in the political arena also, with the result of disintegrality in all parts of the globe, especially in Europe, America, and other English-speaking countries of the world.

"As to the Empress-Victoria herself, our hands are now too benumbed with grief to be able to give an adequate picture. All her long life, private as well as public (she was called to the throne while still in her teens; in fact, a blushing maid of only seventeen summers), may be said to have passed in prayerful watchfulness and motherly care over the countless millions of her subjects in the East and the West. If ever a royal life had been spent in prayerfulness, it was hers; for, the first request she made to the Prime Minister and the chief Prelate of the United Kingdom, when on an early morning in 1837 they waited upon her to announce that George IV was dead and she was to succeed him on the throne, was to pray for her: the old prelate immediately knelt down and prayed for the charming young damsel, suddenly summoned to assume the sceptre of the greatest empire known in history, whether we take the extent of the territory, being one-sixth of the earth's surface or the aggregate population being a fourth of that of the whole world, or the interests at stake or the property involved or the religions concerned into account and compare the British Empire with any in ancient or modern times. And our good Empress never ceased praying to God for our welfare, and according to us, her meanest subjects, her royal sympathy in our weal and woe, and watching over us like a mother. What a bright and noble example she has left to the world of a devoted wife in all her wedded and widowed life, of a perfect mother, grandmother, &c., to her considerable family of children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, &c., of a pure and pious lady throughout her life, and of a merciful, great, and good Queen and Empress (of India) during an unexampled reign of three score years and three!! The Empire at the beginning and that at the close of her unparalleled reign were as the poles asunder, so vast has been the progress in all departments of life and all spheres of knowledge and all phases of business during these many years; and she has lived long enough to introduce us to the new century, thus connecting two pregnant periods of the world's history by her glorious life and grander death. She is now inside the blessed mansions of peace and joy in the heavens above."

51. The *Samvad Prabhakar* [Calcutta] of the 28th January bewails the loss of the Queen as follows:—

The Queen.

The telegraphic cable brought the news as stunning as thunderbolt that the Queen had burst asunder all earthly ties and fallen asleep for ever. Her good acts will keep alive the memory of her whose name people have taken, during the last sixty-three years, in prosperity as well as in adversity, as the name of their mother, and have felt gratified by taking it, and whose image is pictured in vivid colours not on canvas alone, but in every heart, and who was revered like a goddess all over the world. The

SAMVAD
PRABHAKAR,
Jan. 28th, 1901.

body of the Queen, of a goddess, has proved itself fragile. She will be found no more. Alas, for all destroying Death!

No one knows whether India, or for the matter of that, the whole world has ever felt so universal a sorrow. We have lost a mother and the world a goddess.

PHATIVASI,
Jan. 28th, 1901.

52. The *Pratwasi* [Calcutta] of 28th January contains the following obituary notice of the Queen:—

The Queen

The Queen is no more. Queen Victoria is no longer in this world. Victoria, the mother of India, is no longer in this mortal world. How shall we give expression to the sorrow we feel in our hearts? How shall we express the deep sorrow in our hearts by one small drop of tear? Our hearts are overflowing to-day under a spring tide of grief. Is this drop of tear a fit expression of that mighty, overflowing torrent of grief?

The infant does nothing but cry on losing its mother and on being deprived of her tender lap. It has no other cry on its lips nor any other thought in its heart. We, who have lost our mother, are in the infant's condition.

We, too, had a child's love and respect for the Queen and a child's dependence on her. She, too, had all a mother's love and care for the Indians. The heart of a woman is naturally affectionate, and Victoria was the very crown of womanhood. Need we then say that her heart was a deep well of love? Even at the foot of the tree of British policy, that womanly softness soothed her Indian children by spreading over them a benignant shade.

We should not have probably lost her in the very beginning of the twentieth century if her heart had not been so full of love and kindness. The mourning caused in every home in England by the dire Boer War pierced her heart like a dagger. It is probably the slow, smouldering fire of grief which was burning in our mother's heart that has now consumed it. Her mother's heart has broken under the weight of sorrow for the death of hundreds of sons. The life of her, on whose empire the sun never sets, has closed to-day and darkness has fallen over three continents.

The writer then speaks of the wonderful development of literature and science during the Queen's reign and of her exemplary domestic life and gives pictures of the Queen as a widow, of her Coronation, of her birthplace, the Kensington Palace, of the Queen in a rather advanced age, and of the Queen presenting flowers to wounded soldiers. Pictures are also given of the late Prince Albert and the new Sovereign and his family.

BANGABHUMI,
Jan. 29th, 1901.

53. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 29th January gives expression to its sorrow for the Queen's death as follows:—

The Queen.

What we shuddered even to contemplate has now come to pass. Queen Victoria is no more. She whom we have been revering as a mother ever since we first learnt to lisp that dear name and whom our fathers and grand-fathers worshipped as the ruler of India departed this life on the 22nd January last after a reign of three-and-sixty years. Although the death of a sovereign must be very painful to the people, yet in the eye of the Hindu death, such as that of the Queen, is a happy death, one that betokens divine favour. The Queen has suffered many painful bereavements by the death of husband, children, grand-children, and sons-in-law, and death has now come to her as a friend and relieved her of that sorrow which constantly preyed on her heart like a slow, ever-burning funeral fire. There were besides harrassing public cares. There was mourning in every home in England on account of the Boer War, and she, who had tasted the bitterness of every sort of bereavement, was deeply moved by that loud wail. This sympathetic grief was too much for her.

The Queen has had enough of worldly grandeur. Is there another such fortunate woman in the world at present? Has any one also ever read of any woman in the pages of history so fortunate as she was?

The British Empire comprises at present a third part of the earth and one-fourth of its population are now British subjects. No sovereign has now or ever had so wide an empire, and no one can say whether any sovereign will ever rule in future over an empire so large as this. It is no ordinary good

fortune that at the beginning of the twentieth century she is gone to heaven leaving this worldwide empire to a worthy son.

Go, thrice fortunate Queen-mother, go to the land of eternal repose and bliss. Behold, mother, the golden gates of heaven are opening for you. Hear, mother, how the celestial choristers are welcoming you to heaven with hymns in praise of God. Behold, mother, delighted at your glory, sovereigns, sages, and good women of old are greeting you at your entrance into heaven; cast your eyes now on the world which you have made redolent with the fragrance of your holiness, and see how the great ones of the earth are weeping round your dead body; how your ever miserable Indian subjects are heaving sighs of grief, and how your forefathers are showering from above celestial flowers on your corpse.

The paper gives pictures of the Queen, her successor and his Consort, and publishes an account of the Queen's life.

54. The same paper writes—

The new Emperor.

It affords us great joy to think that after an interval of nearly two hundred years we have again got an Emperor of India in the person of Edward VII of England. But it is a regret that the new Emperor will not sit on the throne of Delhi. The Moghul, though a foreigner and a barbarian, knew India for his mother-country, while the civilised and enlightened English rule India through a Viceroy.

Indians will never attain the religious merit that is attained by beholding an emperor. But as they know how to worship even the invisible God in pictures and images, they will have no difficulty in worshipping a human sovereign whom they have once seen. There is great difference between Indian and English loyalty. The Indian looks upon his sovereign as a god, the Englishman looks upon him as only a fortunate human being. The Indian little regards his sovereign's race or character. Whether his sovereign is Pathan, Moghul or Christian, the Hindu can prostrate himself before him. Our new Emperor, who knows what Indian loyalty is, will be able to enter into our feelings, regrets, and aspirations, and it is this thought which brings a smile on our lips in the midst of this sorrow.

55. The *Sign Board* [Calcutta] of the 29th January has the following:—

The new Emperor.

Everybody is delighted with the new Sovereign's declaration. The world has received evidence for a long time past of Emperor Edward's kind nature. All good work has his full sympathy. He has won everybody's respect by taking part in social gatherings and national festivities. As the owner of the British Empire, Emperor Edward is now the head of the civilised world. Millions of men look up to him. The future of the world depends in a great measure upon him. The station to which he has been called will acquire additional dignity from his acceptance of it. Increase of the happiness of the people, punishment of the wicked and protection of the good are generally accounted the only duties of a Sovereign. But an Emperor of the world has higher duties to perform. His universal good-will must penetrate even the densest forest and reach all human beings in whatever circumstances.

56. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] gives a long account of the Queen's life as well as a Bengali translation of the proclamation and of the Emperor's declaration, and writes as follows:—

The new Emperor.

The Prince of Wales has to-day assumed a heavy responsibility, and is seated as Emperor on the throne. The countless millions of India uplift their hands and pray to God for the health and happiness of their new Emperor. They are troubled by fear, depressed with sorrow, and oppressed by poverty. They are standing expectant to hear a word of hope from his lips. Our heart's desire is that he may re-assure them, and that his relations with the countless millions of India may be sweet and pleasant. Let the Emperor hear how the prayer is ascending from a million fervent souls in India, making the blue vault above ring with that mighty cry:—

LONG LIVE EMPEROR EDWARD THE SEVENTH.

BANGABHUMI,
Jan. 29th, 1901.

SIGN BOARD,
Jan. 29th, 1901.

BASUMATI,
Jan. 31st, 1901.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Jan. 16th, 1901.

UTKALDIPKA
Jan. 19th, 1901.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Jan. 16th, 1901.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Jan. 16th, 1901,

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Jan. 17th, 1900.

UTKALDIPKA,
Jan. 19th, 1901.

UTKALDIPKA.

57. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 16th January and the *Utkaldipka* [Cuttack] of the 19th January are sorry to find that no Native of Orissa was found fit to receive a title or honour that was distributed by Government on the New Year's Day. The latter paper urges such natives to distinguish themselves by acts conducing to the public good.

58. The *Samabalpur Hitaishini* regrets to learn that the High Court of Calcutta, while exercising their revisional jurisdiction, enhanced the sentence passed on a Muhammadan boy of Dibrugarh in Assam by the Lower Court, under the impression that the girl complainant was dead, but refused to amend their order, when it was brought to their notice, that the girl was not dead but living. The writer observes that this is not justice, pure and simple, and that this should be brought to the notice of the higher authorities.

59. The same paper is sorry to find that the arrangements made at the Puri railway station for the sale of tickets to passengers are very defective, as the time during which such tickets are sold is very short, so that old or sick men or women or children cannot easily penetrate the dense human block that is formed near the ticket-door. This gives an opportunity to many to black-mail the ignorant passengers right and left. This state of things can be easily avoided by selling tickets long before the train-time, and this procedure can be followed in those stations where the number of passengers is generally very large.

60. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 16th January as also its contemporary of the *Utkaldipka* [Cuttack] of the 19th January gladly endorse the sentiments conveyed in a circular of the Board of Revenue, whereby English officers have been advised to treat their native subordinates and the native public kindly and sympathetically, as that is very necessary for a successful career in the art of good government, especially when such government is in the hands of aliens. The writers observe that such a circular was never needed for the old class of English officers, who used to mix with the natives freely, and who were in close touch with the people. The race of such officers is nearly extinct and a new class of officers have sprung up, who do not care to remain true to their tradition. This is really a deplorable state of things, and Mr. Nolan's circular will be looked upon as God-send, if it succeeds in bringing the rulers and the ruled closer, even though it be to an inappreciable extent.

61. The same paper, as also its contemporary of the *Samvadvahika* [Balasore] of the 17th January, extol Mr. Cotton, the Chief Commissioner of Assam, to the skies for the truly polite manner in which he received a native friend of his, who happened to be his playmate and who, though very old, came to see the Chief Commissioner in his steamer, whom he received in the right royal native fashion.

62. The *Samvadvahika* [Balasore] of the 17th January has reason to be grateful that natives of India have spent more on education than what the Government has spent, and observes that this state of things should encourage Government to help high education, whose cause or interests they have of late shown great unwillingness to advocate or further.

63. Referring to the statements of an Indian student, who is learning practical arts in some University in Japan, the *Utkaldipka* [Cuttack] of the 19th January exhorts other students to proceed to Japan to learn the industrial arts, whereby they will be able to earn their livelihood in India, for those arts can be learnt there at a less cost than in any place in the United Kingdom.

64. The same paper supports the proposal of the Balasore National Association to reduce copying charges in the case of the supply of copies of settlement papers, such as khasras, &c., to the land-owning classes in Orissa,

and observes that Government on referring to the Collectors of Cuttack, Balasore, and Puri will be able to ascertain that the demand for copies of the settlement khasras, &c., is very great in all the districts of that Province.

ASSAM PAPERS.

65. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 15th January says that the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, has asked the Chairman of the Silchar Local Board to reduce the aid of the Narasingha Middle English School from Rs. 53 to Rs. 28 from April next, and has also ordered that the services of the pandit of that school be dispensed with, and that a deduction of Rs. 25 every month from the aid of the school be made so long as the pandit is not removed. As the circumstances of the manager of this school are not good, a reduction of its aid by Rs. 25 will certainly bring the institution to a deplorable condition. Last year Captain Herbert, Chairman of the Local Board, said, when sanctioning Rs. 600 for furniture for the school, that as the manager was very poor, the school would in time come to be the Local Board's property and the Board ought, therefore, to sanction the money. The Board also paid Rs. 2,000 for the construction of the school building. The charge of the school ought, therefore, to be taken over by the Board.

SILCHAR,
Jan. 15th, 1901.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 2nd February, 1901.

